

# Quinnipiac River Watershed



## Watersheds

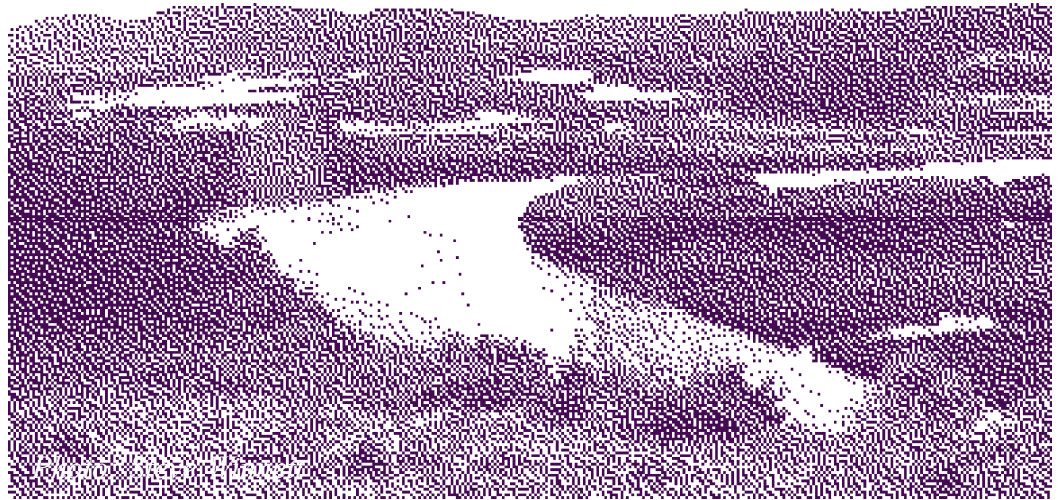
New England includes many ecosystems that, by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value, or proximity to large populations, hold a special significance to us. EPA New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these special places. Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community-based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these areas.

### ► EPA Contact

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### What Makes The Quinnipiac River Special?

- The Quinnipiac has great recreation potential, including native brook trout fishing, birding, canoeing, and two State Parks.
- Despite being the 3rd largest port in New England, the Quinnipiac estuary is one of the most productive seed oystering areas in the U.S.

### Why Does The Quinnipiac River Watershed Need Special Attention?

- Industrialization has left the river contaminated by toxic chemicals, and nutrients and bacteria pollution from dense population. The watershed has Superfund sites and troublesome landfills. Illegal dumping has fouled its waters with garbage and hazardous wastes.
- Water may be over-allocated, and late-summer flows may not be sufficient to preserve habitat.
- Flooding is a problem and the proliferation of paved surfaces causes stormwater runoff problems, including sedimentation and erosion.
- Public access to the river is poor; fish passage is restricted by dams.

### What Are The Long Term Goals?

- To clean up the river, its tributaries, and sources of contamination.
- To increase opportunities for recreation.
- To involve the public in ensuring the long term health and well-being of the watershed.

### Progress/Goals for the Future

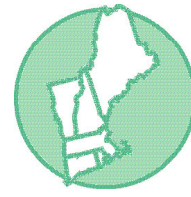
#### What Partnership Progress Has Been Made?

- EPA worked with CT DEP and other stakeholders to form the Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership to improve, restore and maintain the Quinnipiac River.
- The Partnership supported QRWA's 1999 & 2000 Source-to-Sound river cleanup and funded publication of their canoe trailguide to the river.
- The Partnership work groups began studies of water quality, the salt marsh, public access, habitat flooding, stormwater and low flow.
- EPA gave \$150,000 in non-point source pollution funds to CT DEP for use in the Quinnipiac watershed and the Partnership will make recommendations to CT DEP on how to use the funds.
- EPA provided funds to the CT DEP for a watershed inspector, and will contribute technical support.
- EPA and CT DEP provided funds to Yale University to study water quality and do public outreach, and to UConn's Extension Service to promote strategies to reduce fertilizer and pesticides use.

#### What Are The Major Actions Planned for 2000?

- The Partnership plans workshops with UConn for municipal officials in every watershed town to focus on sources of pollution stemming from land use.
- Investigate sources of bacteria and sediment in the river.
- Develop model river ordinances for possible adoption by towns.
- Support community actions to restore the Quinnipiac River saltmarsh and develop a greenway.

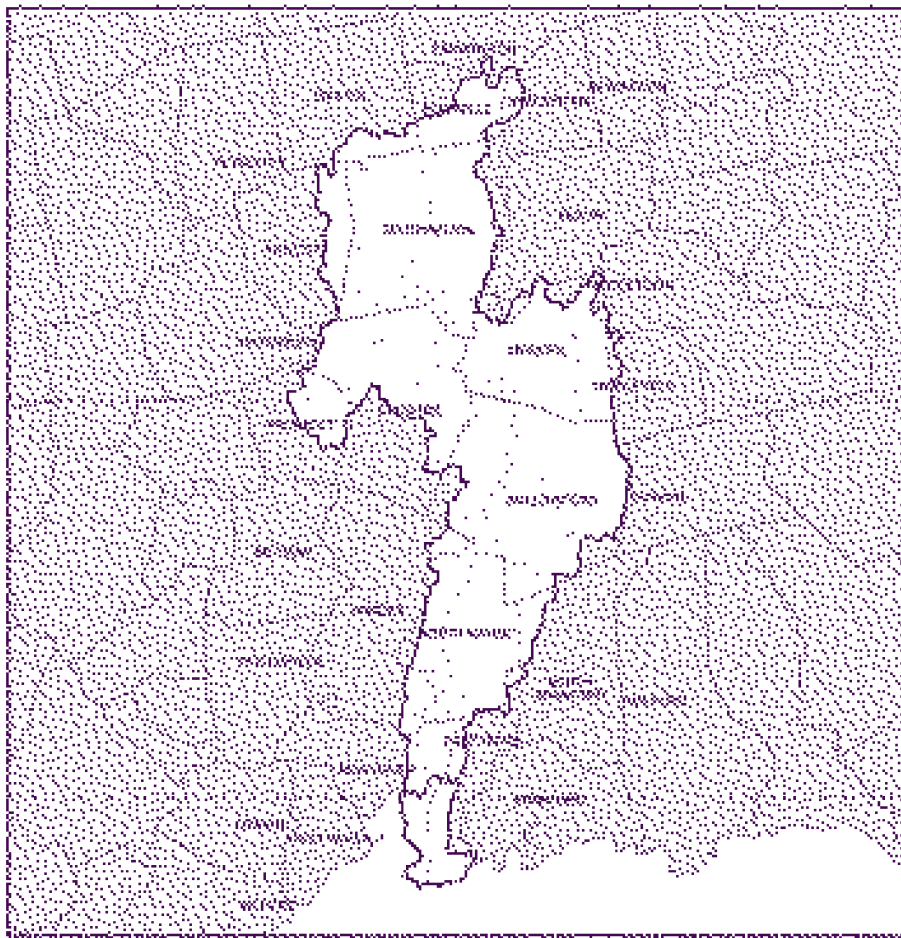
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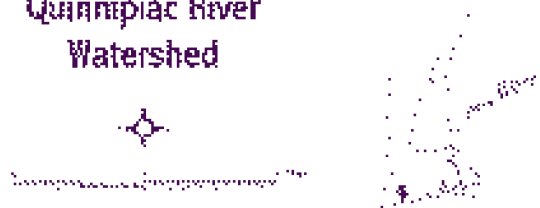
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## Who Are The Partners?

EPA New England • CT Department of Environmental Protection • The municipal governments of the 14 watershed towns, and their citizens • Watershed businesses and industries • Quinnipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA) • Yale University Center for Coastal and Watershed Systems • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • New Haven County Soil & Water Conservation District • The Soundkeeper Fund • Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments • Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency • South Central Regional Water Authority • Quinnipiac Linear Trail Advisory Committee • Watershed Land Trusts • CT Department of Transportation • US Army Corps of Engineers • US Geological Service



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.